[29th January 1923

Observance of Sunday as a holiday in local board schools.

687 Q.—Mr. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the observance of Sunday as a day of rest is optional in schools under local boards?

A.—* The observance of Sunday as a holiday is obligatory in the case of schools under local boards.

Mr A. T. PALMER:—"May I take the liberty of asking whether the word 'holidays' includes 'Sundays' also?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"It does, Sir."

Minimum pay of unpassed candidates employed in civil courts.

688 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Law Member and the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in spite of G.O. No. 1653, Law (Education), dated 18th November 1921, the Government have in view any intention of not allowing *unpassed candidates who prior to 6th August* 1917 *held permanent appointments in superior service* to draw the minimum pay of clerks, viz., Rs. 35 sanctioned therein;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that regardless of the Proceedings of the High Court consequent upon the letter from the Secretary, (Law), Government of Madras, to the Chief Justice (No. 52, dated 10th January 1922), there are still many such unpassed candidates employed in the civil courts who are not allowed to draw the minimum salary of Rs. 35; and

(*c*) whether the Government have any intention of not allowing such candidates the annual increment of the scale of pay up to the maximum of Rs. 65 as sanctioned in the Government order under reference?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

(*c*) The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 722, Law (Education), dated the 13th June 1922, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member to call for reports from the civil courts in the Presidency as to the number of candidates who are not allowed to draw the minimum pay of Rs. 35 referred to in the question? I am told there are some instances in Malabar."

The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I am afraid it is not worth the trouble."

Depressed classes representation in the Negapatam taluk board.

689 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of nominated members on the Negapatam taluk board, and how many of them are non-Brahmans; and

(*b*) whether there is no member of the depressed classes on this board; and why?

* This is substituted at the instance of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government for the answer actually delivered in Council.

29th January 1923]

A.—(*a*) The maximum strength of the Negapatam Taluk Board is twenty, and under section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, all of them have been appointed by Government for a period of six months. Of the twenty members, thirteen are non-Brahman Hindus.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 650.

Grant of land to depressed classes in Punkunam village, South Arcot district.

690 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the information received by Government with reference to question No. 350 put at the meeting of the Council, dated 13th November 1922, regarding darkhast land for Adi-Dravidas in Punkunam, Wandiwash taluk?

A.—The information asked for in question No. 350 put at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 13th November 1922 is furnished below:—

Question No. 350.

(*a*) Six darkhasts were received from the Adi-Dravidas of Punkunam village from the beginning of 1921 up to 15th September 1922. Five of these were for communal porambokes and so they were rejected. In the remaining case, the land which was classed as assessed dry was assigned.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) The Government have been unable to obtain any confirmation of the allegations made.

If the hon. Member gives full details regarding dates and other particulars, further enquiries will be made.

Government Leper Asylum, Madras.

691 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government Leper Asylum is to be transferred from Madras to Chingleput;

(*b*) whether the Board of Health has recommended the construction of thatched huts with mud walls and mud floor washed with cowdung for leper settlement at Chingleput;

(*c*) whether the Government have approved of the recommendation of the Board of Health; and

(*d*) whether it is the intention of the Government to hand over the Chingleput leper settlement to Mission management?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The Government have not passed any definite orders on the subject.

(*d*) The Government have not yet considered any such suggestion.